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Copy and Extracts from Allen's History of Vermont, prepared for the press.

Chapter VI

"Soon after the return of the Commissioners from Congress Mr. Ira Allen wrote, printed, and published a Pamphlet, shewing the right the peopl had to form a government, which with Dr. Young's letter was spread through the State, and measures taken to convene a Convention, which met at Windsor, in June 1777 to form a Constitution, and appointed a Committee to revise a draft of a Constitution then exhibited, and passed a Resolution, recommending to each Town, to Elect and send Representatives to a Convention to meet at Windsor in July following. Messrs Ira Allen, Wm Marsh, James Mead and Captain Salisbury were appointed a committee to wait on on the Commander of Ticonderoga Fort, and consult with him respecting the Regulations and defence of the frontiers, then adjourned to the 4th of July 1777. to meet at the same place.

Before said Committee arrived at Ticonderoga, General Burgoyne and army had been some time in motion from Canada, and not having sufficient Watercraft to move all at once, they rested on the west side of said Lake, about sixty miles North of Ticonderoga, for the remaining Cannon and baggage to come on, and General Schuyler had gon to Saratoga, and left the Command of the army with General St. Clair, who with Colonel Warner, requested Mr Allen (as he was well acquainted on Lake Champlain,) to take the command of a Scout, to reconoitre the enemy, to learn their number situation and movements; when Mr Allen discovered, at that late period, that there were no ~~light~~ Whale or Light Boats for such discoveries, and nothing better than heavy Bateaux's for such service; he declined, as he was convinced that he could not go nigh enough to General Burgoyne's army, to make any useful discoveries, without being taken, for a sixteen oar barge of which

or other light boats no doubt but the British had plenty that would go at least three times as fast (by oars or sales) as such heavy batteaux's. In two days General Burgoyne and army arrived at Crown Point, and sent a scout of about 300, mostly Indians, to land at the mouth of Otter Creek, to annoy the frontiers of the State. General St. Clair refused to grant any troops to the Committee for the defence of the frontiers, but allowed Colonel Warner to go with them, who soon raised men sufficient to repel the assailants. All who were members of the convention left the militia, and repaired to Windsor on July 4th 1777. A draft of the Constitution was laid before the convention and read. The business being new, and of great consequence required serious deliberations. The Convention had it under consideration when the news of the evacuation of Ticonderoga arrived, which alarmed them very much, as thereby the frontiers of the State were exposed to the inroades of the enemy. The family of the President of the Convention, as well as many other members were exposed to the foe. In this awful crisis some were for leaving Windsor precipitately but a severe thunderstorm came on, and during the rain they had time to reflect while others members, less affected alarmed at the news, called the attention of the whole to finish the Constitution, which was then reading paragraph by paragraph for the last time. The Constitution was read through with little attention, the Convention proceeded to appoint a council of Safety to conduct the business of the State, during the recess of the Convention, and to convene said Convention, when necessary, and adjourned without day.

Ticonderoga Evacuated.

On the sixth of July 1777, while it was yet dark, the Americans evacuated the garrison of Ticonderoga and its dependencies... Previous to which the commandant had requested assistance from the militia of Vermont, in virtue of which about nine-hundred and fifty militia men assembled at said garrison. Some officers that were members of the convention to form a constitution for said State, had been expressed that service in the frontiers, and gon to Windsor. The whole militia from Vermont, united in one regiment under the command of Col. Moses Robinson, Major Hebar Allen, as field officers; Joseph Fay, Adjutant, James Brookings, Quarter Master.

This regiment was quartered within the fort in the barracks, and as the Continental trooks were without and around them, it was said by an aid-de-camp of the General, that it was not necesary for them to keep out gards, when they were wanted to man the lines they would be notified. In this situation said regiment remained from their arrival on Thursday, till Saturday evening, when they received orders to lye on their arms as they might be called on to man the lines before day-light towards daybd Robinson being unwell, called on Adjutant Fay to get him some water, on his going out he saw a house on fire, by the light thereof he discovered that all the tents were struck, and removed, and not a man to be seen on the ground. He immediately returned to Col. Robinson with this information. The regiment were ordered to parade, when Col. Robinson ordered Major Allen, to take the front and march quick time to Mount Independence, and brought up the rear of his regiment. Just as the front entered on the bridge to pass from Ticonderoga to said mount the British arrived at the out posts as appeared by their fireing and shouting for success; as the rear left the bridge the British Shipping in the Lake were bearing down under a press of sail When the front of the regiment got to the top of the mount (about half a mile) near the barracks, Major Allen seeing two regiments of the continental troops were there, ordered to halt. The fireing then commenced from the Ships that had got to the bridge.

Had it not been for the interposition of a benificent providence in causing Colonel Robinson to send for water, as aforesaid, near one thousand of the valiant sons of Vermont would in less than twenty minutes had been prisoners to General Burgoyne. For General St. Clair, nor no officer under him, had given Col Robinson the least information of the evacuation of Ticonderoga, when their troops composed near one fourth part of his army yet every man but that regiment had been off the ground and crossed the bridge, or gon by water for Skeensborough a considerable time before.

Soon after said regiment halted, as aforesaid, General St. Clair inquired what troops they were, he was answered, Col. Robinson's regiment, What, of the Militia?* saith the General, Major Allen said yes, General St. Clair then gave it as his positive orders, for that regiment to remain there till all the troops were passed and bring up the rear, Major Allen answered in strong and expressive language; that they did not come there to guard the continental troops, but to assist them: and ordered the regiment to march.

General St. Clair then ordered Col. Seth Warner, with his regt. (which was raised in Vermont) to bring up the rear: Col. Warner observed to the General, that it was not his place by the rules of war, yet he would obey his orders.

Before the troops had marched one mile, they were in the utmost confusion, in a precipitate retreat; and what added to the singularity of the scene, was, that General St. Clair and his aid-de-camps were on horseback pressing through the crowd of troops on the road, which they continued to do till they gained the front.

At about five miles the word halt was repeatedly passed from rear

*What of the Militia? Are the General's own words, which seem to imply, that he was surprised to see said regiment on Mount Independence after leaving them asleep in the silent watches of the night. That Militia Men whose dearest connections, papers and effects, might in a few hours be Exposed to the enemy, should be ordered to bring up the rear, is perhaps such an order as never was before given, and was both unmilitary and inhuman.

rear to front without effect. When Col. Warner on horseback pressed through the crowd to General St. Clair, and demanded in the name of God. what he meant by such confusion. that there was neither front. rear, nor flank guards, nor one regiment or company together. that no officer new his men. or men where their officers were. that a small party of the enemy might put them to flight. &c. General St Clair then ordered Col. Warner to stop and see that the troops pressed him by files, and then to take the rear. The General and aid-de-camps kept the front; (at Lacey's camp) about fifteen miles from Mount Independence, the General ordered a halt. and to have the men sit down on each side of the road. Major Allen with about two hundred of the Militia men of the North regiment, being apprehensive that some parties of the enemy might by that time be distressing their families. took the road and marched with trailed arms. when he came up with General St. Clair. he ordered him to halt. which was not obeyed; he then gave them peremptory orders for them to halt. or he would order his men to fire on them: Major Allen answered, fire and be damned; and they instantly cocked their guns and marched quick-time past the troops. then took a nigh way through the woods, and in about one mile they discovered a trail of a party of the enemy. lurking in the weeds, which they crossed. and went with all speed to Castleton Mills, when they were informed that a party of the enemy were in town. That the inhabitants some hours before had a skirmish with them.... That Captain Williams was killed, several men wounded, and the enemy remained in possession: It was then time for each man to take care of his family and effects, as these men lived on the frontier towns.

General St. Clair, at the head of his retreating army. arrived at Castleton that evening, but Col. Warner with his regiment and some other troops who had brought up the rear. encamped at Hubbardton, next morning they were attacked by a party of the enemy. when a severe skirmish ensued. Col. Warner and his men supported ~~his men~~ themselves with great spirit and activity and when the enemy in

front began to give ground, Col. Francis on the right having some men exposed to the fire of the Enemy in a field ordered a retreat a few rods into the woods. This order was mistaken and that wing gave way which encouraged the enemy. Col. Frances in trying to stop his men was killed, and the enemy gained the ground. Thus by misunderstanding Col. Warner lost a victory that was just declairing in his favour, and lost about two hundred men killed, and a number wounded and taken prisoners: the enemies loss was near three hundred men killed, and the British troops afterwards complained, that the Green Mountain Boys took sight.

Hubbardton battle was announced in Castleton by noise thereof, and several of the officers asked leave of the General to go to Col. Warners assistance; but they were forbid. Captain Fletcher (of said Militia) had ordered his Company to leave their packs with a small guard, and in light dress to follow him Hubbardton. The General ordered them to stop; but Fletcher and his men went on. In haste, when the General ordered them to go slow if they would go. or they would not be able to assist when they get there, and ordered the Army to march They then proceeded to Rutland, Clarendon, Wallingford Harwich, Manchester, Sunderland, Arlington, White Creek; & Salem, to get to General Schuyler's head quarters at Saratoga. This was about thirty miles round, and part of the way a little more than a line of marked trees, and left the inhabitants of Vermont exposed to the ravages of the enemy. Col. Warner's regiment gave the people some assistance in getting off with their families, cattle, &c. In particular Captain Gideon Brownson, with some troops made a stand at Captain Willards in Pawlet, a few days, when Col. Warner collected his regiment and the militia made head quarters at Manchester.

The members of the council of Safety, appointed as aforesaid agreed to meet and form in Manchester where, they repaired without loss of time*

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*Abel Spencer, Esqr of Clarendon, who had been a notorious stickler for the New York land Monopolists, had been suddenly converted to an

Col. Thomas Chittenden was elected president, and Mr. Ira Allen secretary of said Council. The council adjourned to Mr. Joseph Bradley in Sunderland, Manchester, having become a frontier post, and Col Warner's Head Quarters. Thus in a few days more than one hundred on the west part of the State, was evacuated, by most of the people who could move, and those on the East side of the Mountains were exposed to the enemy. These movements exhibited a scene of distress and confusion not easy to discribe.

In the early deliberations of the council of safety for the protection of the frontiers, a question arose.... Whether the generals in the northern department had sent expreses to the states of New-Hampshire and Massachusetts, notifying said evacuation, and requesting assistence for the defence of the frontiers? It was generally supposed that said generals had taken that precaution, but one member of the council who had been sent by a Convention at Windsor, in June as one of the Committee, to the commander in chief at Ticonderoga, respecting the frontiers just before evacuated, declared, that the generals who had not the precaution to have a single light boat in Lake Champlain,

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advocate for a New State, and taken a seat in the Convention, and was a useful zealous Member in forming a Constitution, and so ingratiated himself as a good Whig, that he was elected one of said Council of Safety. Ira Allen on the way from Windsor to Manchester, was much opposed to Mr. Spencer's taking a seat in the Council of Safety, assuring his Colleagues, that he was a Tory, and would expose the secrets of the Council to the enemy, and thereby expose the lines of Military Men, and defeat the plans of Council: much was said in favour of Mr. Spencer, and his conduct in the Convention extoled. Mr. Allen declared, that he would not take a seat in the Council if Mr. Spencer did, that he should not be surprised if Spencer should go from Clarendon to Burgoyne's Camp, instead of joining the Council at Manchester, which he did, and died with the British soon after. This may show the propriety of carefully examining the conduct of Men, before electing them to important offices.

to discover the movements of their Enemy, and made a shameful retreat; was not equal to the trust reposed in them; were frightened, or had neglected, for motives less honourable to themselves, to give necessary information to the Executive of said States, and if said Generals had sent expresses, another express from the the Council of Safety would be an additional stimulous to exertion. On or about the 10th of July Ira Allen Esquire, by leave of, and in behalf of the Council, by express sent a letter he had wrote to Mr. Weare, President of New-Hampshire informing him of the evacuation of Ticonderoga, and the retreat and disasterous situation of the army, and the exposed situation of the inhabitants of Vermont declairing, that unless speedily relieved, they would be obliged to evacuate great part of the State, which would expose other States to the enemy. A similar letter was sent to the Govenor of Mapachusets, which Letters were of the utmost consequence in stimulating these States to exertion, as said Generals of the Army, had not then sent any express, to announce the evacuation, or call for assistance from either of said States.

The Council of Safety attended to the affairs of the Government, but their situation was very unpleasant, as the Convention had only declared the district to be a free State; but the Government was not organized, as the Constitution was not fully completed, and near three quarters of the people on the west side of the Mountains were compelled to remove, and the rest were in great danger. It was they who principally supported the title of the New-Hampshire Grants, against the unjust claims of New-York, and their removal exposed the settlers on the east side of the Green Mountains to an invasive war, both from the Savages and the British; besides, the late proceedings of Congress had been partial towards New-York, and against Vermont; the people of the new State had reason to expect no favour from the Committee of Safety of New-York, as its members were in fact in part composed of the old Sycophants of the late Government which they prudently avoided. Gain and dominion were objects of the first consequence to some of the Committee of New-York, and the citizens of the new State were conscious that they would take every sinister

and pupible step to divide the people, and would not be dissatisfied with any misfortune that befel them, even by the common enemy

In this opinion they were the more confirmed, as said Committee of Safety had complained to Congress, that, that Col. Warner was an outlaw to late Government of New-York, and the Convention had resolved, that all Quitrents that were arrear and were payable to the crown of England were due and payable to that Convention and their successors, which with other circumstances convinced, that the then administration were for supp-orting the measures pursued by the former Colony of New York.

The council of Safety had no public money, nor had they authority to lay taxes, or credit as a public body, to make or borrow money to answer the necessities of government. The government was in its infancy, and their financial powers and credit were not extensive, and all expreses were supported at their private expense. The Council were generally men of small property, yet in this situation it became necessary to raise men for the defence of the frontiers, with bounties and wages: ways and means were to be found out, and the day was spent in debating on the subject: Nathan Clark, Esq, not convinced of the practability of a regiment moved in Council, that Mr. Ira Allen, (the youngest member of the Council, and who insisted on raising a regiment, while a large majority of the Council were for only two companies, of sixty men each) might be appointed a Committee to discover ways and means to raise, arm, and support a regiment, and to make his report at sunrise, on the morrow. The Council acquiesed, and Mr. Allen took the matter into consideration, and spent the night alone in concerting plans, and he reported the ways means to raise, arm and support a regiment, viz. that the Council should appoint Commissioners of Sequ-estration, with authority to seize the goods and Chattles of all persons who had or should join the common enemy; and that all moveable property so seized, should be sold at public vendue, and the proceeds paid to a Treasurer, to be appointed by the Council of Safety, for the purpose of paying a bounty of ten dollars and one months advance pay.... that every man furnish his own arms, accou-

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and cloathing for a regiment to be fourthwith raised for the defence of the State.

The Counceil appointed Commissioners of sequestration, Ira Allen Esq. Treasurer, and the officers for a regiment, (the nomination of which Mr. Allen had paid much attention to, in the solitary hours of the night.) Samuel Herrick Esq. was appointed the Colonel, and the men inlisted, and said bounties paid in fifteen days, out of the confiscated property of the enemies of the new State; This was (supposed to be) the first instance in America of seizing and selling the property of the enemies of the American independence.

About three days after the appointment of the officers Col. Herrick's Regiment, as aforesaid, Captain Ebenezer Allen, and Lieut. Isaac Clark went with a scout to the North; a Mr. Irish of Danby took one man of said scout and being on the act of carrying him prisoner to General Readhasel's camp, then in Castleton, Mr. Irish was killed, and the man retaken. This circumstance with Genl. Burgoynes proclamation, induced a number that were in principle ~~with~~ in the British interests, to go into their camps; and Col. Herrick rangers collected their cattle and they were sold by the Commissioners of sequestration, appointed as aforesaid.

Capt. Allen on his return brought to the Counceil of Safety, one of Genl. Burgoyne's Proclamations, which is subjoined to shew the Spirit of the times, and to transmit a copy thereof to posterity, that they may see what the statesmen and heroes of 1777 had to contend with.

Proclamation

"By John Burgoyne, Esq. Lieutenant General of his Majesties armies in America, Colonel of the Queen's regiment of light dragoons, Govenor of fort William in North Britain, one of the Representatives of the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament, and commanding an army and fleet, employed on an expedition from Canada &c. &c. &c."

"The forces entrusted to my command are designed to act in concert and upon a common principle, with the numerous armies and fleets which

already display in every quarter of America, the power, the justice and when properly sought, the mercy of the King.

"The cause in which the British arms are thus exerted, applies to the most affecting interests of the humane heart, and the military servants of the Crown, at first called forth for the sole purpose of restoring the rights of the constitution, now combine with love of their country, and duty to their Sovereign, the other extensive incitements which spring from a due sense of the general privileges of mankind. To the eyes and ears of the temperate part of the publick, and to the breasts of the suffering thousands in the provinces, be the melancholy appeal, whether the present unnatural rebellion has not been made a foundation for the completest system of tyranny, that ever God in his displeasure, suffered for a time to be exercised over a froward generation.

"Arbitrary imprisonment, confiscation of property, persecution and torture, unprecedented in the inquisitions of the Romish church, are among the palpable enormities that verify the affirmative. These are inflicted by assemblies and committees, who dare to profess themselves friends to liberty upon the most quiet subjects. Without distinction of age or sex, for the sole, often for the sole suspicion, of having adhered in principle to the government under which they were born, and to which by every tie, divine and humane, they owe allegiance. To consummate these shocking proceedings, the profanation of religion is added to the most profligate prostitution of common reason, the consciences of men are set at nought, and multitudes are compelled not only to bear arms, but also to swear subjection to an usurpation they abhor.

"Animated by these considerations, at the head of troops in full powers of health, disciplined and valor, determined to strike when necessary, and anxious to spare where possible, I by these presents invite and exart all persons, in all places where the progress of this army may point.... and by the blessing of God I will extend it far.... to maintain such conduct as may justify me in protecting their lands, habitations, and families. The intention of this address is to hold forth security, not depredations to the country.... To those whose spirit and principle

may induce to partake the glorious task of redeeming their countrymen from dungeons, restablishing the blessings of a legal government. I offer incouragement and employment. and upon the first intelligence of their association. I will find means to assist their undertakings. The domestic, the industrious the infirm and even the timid inhabitants I am desirous to protect provided they remain quietly at their houses. that they do not suffer their cattle to be removed. nor their corn or forage to be secreted or destroyed. that they do not break up their bridges or roades. nor by any other acts directly or indirectly, endeavour to obstruct the Kings troops. or supply or assist those of the enemy.... Every species of provision brought to my camp. will be paid for at an equitable rate, and in Solid Coin.

"In conciousness of christianity. my royal masters Clemency and the ~~the~~ honar of Soldiership. I have dwelt upon this invitation. and wished for more persuasive terms to give it impression: And lett not people be led to disregard it. by considering their distance from the immediate situation of my camp.... I have sent to give stretch to the Indian forces under my direction; and they amount to thousands, to overtake the hardened enemies of Great Britain and America: I consider them the same wherever they may lurk.

"If notwithstanding these endeavours, and sincere inclinations to effect them. the phrensy of hostilities should remain. I trust I shall stand acquitted in the eyes of God and men. in denouncing and executing the vengence of the ~~state~~ against the wilful authors. The messengers of justice and wrath await them in the field; and devastation. famine and every concomitant horror, that a reluctant but indispensible prosecution of military duty must occasion. will be on the way to their return

J. Burgoyne

"Camp near Ticonderoga 4th July 1777
"By order of his Excellency the Lieut. General.

Robert Kingston. Secty.

The Council adjourned to Bennington, and about the time this regiment was raised, a party of militia from Massachusetts arrived in the new State. General Schuyler, a citizen of the State of New-York, and commander in Chief of the Northern army, no sooner heard of it, than he sent orders to the militia of Massachusetts, Vermont, and to Col Warner's ~~regiment~~ and Herrick's regiments, to repair forthwith to Saratoga; the militia of Massachusetts were obliged to obey, according to the regulations of the continental Congress; but the Council of Safety superceded General Schuyler's orders, and gave special directions to its Militia and Col. Herrick, to remain with the State of Vermont, advising Col. Warner thereof. This occasioned some irascible letters between General Schuyler and the Council of Safety, which were terminated by a preemptory order of Council to Col. Herrick and to its militia, not to put themselves under the command of General Schuyler; and they advised Col. Warner, who held his commission from Congress, to remain at Manchester, that they had wrote for assistance to New-Hampshire, and had strong reason to believe, that the enemy would soon attempt to destroy the continental Stores at Bennington.

The general court of New-Hampshire, in consequence of information (from Ira Allen, Secretary of said Council of Safety) of the evacuation of Ticonderoga, appointed Col. John Starke a Brigadier Genl, and instructed him to go with his troops and join the Northern army for the defence of the frontiers. Genl. Starke informed the General Court, that he was ready and willing to act in concert with the Green Mountain Boys, in defence of the frontiers, but could not think it his duty to put himself under the command of Genl. Schuyler or any other continental officer. The President of New-Hampshire in vain urged against the reasons of Genl. Starke who offered to give up his commission; but finally, the President and Council left it optional with Genl. Starke, whether to be commanded or not by any continental officer. General Starke recieved orders to "Repair to Charleston on Connecticut River;

there to consult with a committee of the New Hampshire Grants, respecting his future operations, and the supply of his men with provisions; to take the command of the Militia, and march into the Grants, to act in conjunction with the troops of that new State, or any other of the States, or the United States,*" On his arrival at Charleston, he wrote a letter to Ira Allen, Esqr. for advice and directions from the Council of Safety respecting his future rout and Stores. Mr. Allen, by order of the council, advised Genl. Starke to the direct road to Manchester, and to hasten his march as much as pofsible, and join with Col. Warner's regiment, that the council of Safety had no doubt but the British would soon attempt to destroy the Continental Store in Bennington. Mr. Allen also infomed General Starke, that the council had raised a regiment of rangers under Col. Herrick, who would be ready to assist. General Starke, on his way to Manchester met orders from Genl. Schuyler, directing him to march and join the army at Saratoga. This order was rejected, and the express returned. Genl. Schuyler then sent a positive order, and Genl. Starke on his arrival at Manchester returned an absolute refusal, alledging his orders from the President and Council of New Hampshire to join or not under the command of a continental officer.† Mr. Chittenden, the President of the council of Safety of Vermont, corrisponded with

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*Belknap's History of New Hampshire.

† The author of this History, in 1779, being at Exeter, was informed by Mr. Thompson, Member and Secretary of the Council of New Hampshire, that Generals Poor and Starke were captains at the reduction of Canada in 1760, and that in 1775, they were on the same day appointed Colonels; that in 1776 Col. Poor was appointed Brigadier General, at which Col. Starke was offended, and declined service, observing "that in 1777, a powerful army would come from the North, which he, with the Green Mountain Boys, would cut off, wing by wing." After Genl. Starke had refused to obey the orders of Genl.

General Starke, and had received information that a detatch-
-ment from Genl Burgoyne's army was on its march to Bennington
they rested at Walloomscoick, near the line of that town. and in three
days threw up a breast-work with logs and earth, on an advan-
tageous height. nearly five feet high. During those three days
every possible preperation was made by the Council of Safety
and General Starke for a battle with the detatchment under
Col. Baum on the 15th. The 17th day of August, 1777 was fixed
on for the attack by Genl Starke. and Col Warner was to remain at
Manchester as long as he conveniently could, and be timely to the
support of Genl. Starke; it was concluded that two great move-
-ments would alarm Col Baum, and cause him to retrograde
on the evening of the 15th. Genl. Starke had under his command
~~about~~ nearly the same number of undisciplined troops from New

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Schuyler, and justified his conduct by his instructions. Genl.
Schuyler complained to Congress of the orders of the council of New
Hampshire. a severe reprimand, of course, was sent to the council.
A committee of the council, (Mr. Thompson being one) was appointed
to return an answer to Congress. They could not find at that time
sufficient reasons to justify their instructions to Genl. Starke,
and therefore delayed their answer for a few days. when the news
of Genl. Starke's victories over two detatchments of the royal
army at Bennington arrived, the committee were able to send a
satisfactory answer to Congress for giving such optional
instructions to Genl. Starke (who had with the Green Moun-
tain Boys fulfilled his predictions as aforesaid) and Congress were
content. and honoured Genl. Starke with the commission of a
Brigadier General in the army of the United States.

Hampshire and Vermont, including a few from Berkshire county; as Col. Baum had of disciplined troops in his breast work with four brass field pieces, and a detachment of Indians Genl. Starke received information from the council of Safety,* that in an other day, Col. Baum would be joined by a detatchment on its way to reinforce him under the command of Col. Skene, and thereby his numbers would be doubled; and his own could not be increased in the same proportion; he therefore resolved to make the assault on the 16th, and an express was sent to Col. Warner with the determination Accordingly preparations were made, and in pursuance to a plan of attack proposed by Col. Herrick, and approved by Genl. Starke, and Council of War. The assault commenced on all sides of the Breastwork at the same time, the firing was promiscuous; by the marksmen, at every man who appeared above the Breastwork. Colonels Baum, and Chester, were killed early in the action. This mouthod of shooting, and continuing a steady shoot march, proved efficatious, and terrified the enemy to such a degree that their balls were found in the trees thirty two feet from the ground. This was because brains were in danger, when exposed above the said breastwork to the fire of the Green Mountain Boys, and General Starke's sharpe shooters; in consequence the assailants with little loss soon became masters of the breastwork, and took a number of prisoners, their field pieces, and baggage. Those who escaped were pursued ~~near~~ for about four miles, when they met a detatchment under Col. Skene, Col. Herrick then retreated before Col. Skene. At this critical moment Colonel Warner arrived with about 150 men of his regiment, and enabled General Starke to guard the prisoners, and to go forward with the four field pieces just taken from Col. Baum; against Col

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* The council of safety had the address, to get correct information from Genl. Burgoyne's camp, and by a runner were informed about sunset on the 15th, that on the afternoon of the 16th, Col. Skene would join Colonel Baum with 1500 men.

Skene, who was defeated, made a precipitate retreat, and being favoured by the night, made their escape, and rejoined the royal army. Colonel Skene had his horse killed under him and immediately mounted on another, and being hard prefsed retreated with the remanes of two detatchments, from Burgoyne's army, (either of which, exclusive of about one hundred Indians, were equal in number to General Stark's whole force;) In both battles the British lost in killed about 350 men, wounded and made prisoners about 750. General Stark had only 49 men killed, some wounded, who afterwards died of their wounds.

Herman Allen, Esq. a member of the Council of Safety of Vermont, went to the field of battle; the weather being hot, and his fatigus great, he caught a violent cold and died of a decline on the 18th of May following. Major Helen Allen who was in the retreat from Ticonderoga as aforesaid, over fatigued took cold and died in a decline afterwards. It is but justice to their Memories to say, that they were zealous and active friends to the cause of the people of the New Hampshire grants, and the then pending cause of the United States, to which, by their perseverance they fell victims.*

It is worthy of remark, and further investigation, that Genl. Schuyler was extremely irritated at his Orders being disobeyed, as aforesaid: that he wrote to Congress on the subject, who wrote a reprimand to the government of New Hampshire, for giving such instructions to Genl. Stark: that in the mean time the celebrated battle of Bennington was gained by

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*In April 1777, Mr. Ira Allen proposed to his brother Herman Allen, that he (Ira) would engage a number of Green Mountain Boys, that were good oarsmen, procure a whale or other Light boat, in Connecticut at a convenient place to cross the sound, to the north side of Long Island, as near Flatbush as might be convenient, then make the aforesaid secret march, and bring off his brother Ethan Allen, and the other Officers, that were then prisoners on Parole, suggesting, that when the British came forward with power from the North, that Col Allen

the troops that said Council of Safety, had by their ~~spiritted~~ exertions, raised, collected, and detained which Genl. Schuyler had ordered to Saratoga. The news thereof, and the circumstances attending it, produced no doubt, a nigh order from Congress to

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would bee again confined in prison; and his life in danger. The project was relinquished on Heman's suggesting, that if successful, it would injure other officers then on parole who might be confined in prison. Col. Allen was confined in the Provost Goal of New York, in August 1777, and detained in a cell for three days, without being able to obtain any provisions, for money, or otherwise, as described in his Narrative in page 520, including 522 Olive Branch). On the third of May 1778, he was exchanged for Col. Campbell.

In 1780, Mr. Levi Allen was made prisoner, and much property taken from him by the British, confined in prison in the south: the heat of the climate and vexations had such mental effects, that he was not the man he was before, to the day of his Death.

Mr. Timy Allen, was a zealous ~~man~~ active Friend to the cause of the People of the New-Hampshire Grants, and the Revolution of the United States, but had the misfortune to have a slender constitution, and died in a decline in March 1776: his weakly constitution and early death, deprived the world of a young Man of much ability and goodness of heart.

General Ethan Allen died in a fit of Appoplexy in February, 1789.

Capt. Remember Baker, the friend and intimate connection of the author; was the first man killed in the American War in the Northern Department in 1775 is stated in page —. The author has been induced to make this note Respecting his deceased Brothers, and his friend Baker, as the persecutions of a combination, (supposed to be in part from British influence, and that of those who have lost lands, granted by the late Colony of New-York within Vermont) have caused much injury to the property of the author, and the Heirs of his deceased friends, aforesaid, mention of which is made in the Preface and appendix of this History.

Genl Schuyler than what he expected; and the commander in chief, when he complained that the troops from the State of New-Hampshire, and the District of the New-Hampshire Grants (now Vermont) would not obey his orders. These facts were convincing proofs, that the people of the eastern States did not place confidence in Genl. Schuyler but in violation of his orders, had cut off the left wing of Genl. Burgoyne's army, which was breaking the first link in an immense chain of power and oppression. Genl. Schuyler was superseeded by Genl. Gates, and a Brigadier Generals commission was ~~given~~ sent from Congress, with a complimentary letter to Genl Starke. Generals Schuyler and St. Clair had a court of enquiry ordered on them, for their conduct in the evacuation ~~of~~ and retreat from Ticonderoga.

It aught to be remembered, that large supplies of clothes and new arms with bayonets had been some time in Store, but orders could not be obtained from Genls. Schuyler or St. Clair to deliver them, and on that account the continental troops left Ticonderoga badly clothed, and worse armed. The several garrisons, store houses and cannon fell into the hands of the enemy, without a single attempt being made to destroy them except one house, and whether that was set on fire for a signal to retreat or advance, must be left to the actors in those scenes to determine.

If from the forces of Genl Burgoyne's army and number of troops at Ticonderoga, it was proper to evacuate that Garrison, was it necessary to deprive the American troops of their cloathing and impliments of war, to stimulate Genl Burgoyne to pursue his enemy, and leave strong garrisons in good order, that the events of war might (even on ~~said~~ Generals favourite plan) necessitate the American troops soon to concert measures to take?

When the court of enquiry convened for the examination as said Generals, they pleaded that it was good policy to evacuate said garrisons to lead Genl. Burgoyne and army into the country, in order to take them.

It must be confessed, that it was a favourable time for such a plea, and an inquiry just after so signal a victory, yet it remains

a question with some. whether said Generals are entitled to more credit for their conduct, than those who opposed the general orders; who thereby found means to cut off the left wing of Gnl. Burgoyne's powerful and Menacing army, and in its consequences changed the commanders of the northern army, which gave rise to much confidence as well as stimulated the militia to assemble, surround and assist in capturing Gnl. Burgoyne and army.

If the exertions of the council of Safety in Vermont, as aforesaid, disconcerted any misterious plans of the British Cabinet, and their generals, in concert with..... and thereby contributed to the capture of Gnl. Burgoyne and army, they were discharging a duty enjoined on them by their appointment, and the more faithful they were, the more ~~faithful~~ they ~~were~~ deserve the applause of their country, for these exertions were of the utmost consequence, to the then pending and trembling cause of independence.

The candid reader will better understand the grounds on which the council superceded the orders of Gnl. Schuyler, by turning to the chart of the country and see the local situation thereof, in particular that of Skeensborough (alias Whitehall) and Castleton, which were then occupied by Gnl. Burgoyne and army. Then see Saratoga, Brmington, and Manchester occupied by the Americans. That to the two latter places roads were opened across the Green Mountains, to which places the militia from the east and southeast would naturally pass to join the main army at Saratoga. This made the continental Store at Brmington of the first consequence to furnish ~~each the~~ supplies of provisions, as the troops passed. In this situation the respective armies lay, when a council of Safety were appointed at Windsor, on Connecticut River, who repaired to Manchester and Sunderland, then sent Expresses to the Govenor of New-Hampshire in Exeter, and to the Govenor of Massachusetts, which caused men to be sent from those States. Then without Government a money raised a Regiment of Rangers, and superceded the orders of the Commander in Chief of the northern Department of the United States, and gained correct information from the Enemies Camp,

all in time to cut off the left wing of their army at Brmington.
The proportion of energy and exertion on the part of the council of Safety, with that of the British Generals, is beyond calculation. and shows what a few enterprising, persevering determined Individuals, may effect. in a country where the people have the feeling and Spirit of freemen, and a just sense of the dignity of human nature.

To more clearly shew the delays of the British, it is proper to State. that Ticonderoga was evacuated on the sixth of July, that the front of General Burgoyne's army arrived Skeensborough that evening, that the battle of Bmmington was on the 16th of August, about sixty miles South of Said Skeenesborough

Before this battle, heaviness and a dark cloud hung over the northern States. General Burgoyne's army was large. and had been victorious in every place, and his proclamations breathed fourth menacing threatnings, and in addition, the highest confidence was not placed by the people, in General Schuyler. In verity, it was the time that tried the fortitude and spirits of all men, among whome none but the true born sons of liberty and perseverance could brave the danger of taking arms in so critical a time. The Green Mountain Boys were deeply interested in the fate of the day; for the very existance of the infant State of Vermont. their families and property, were all pending on the event: Indeed the people of Bmmington, Shaftsbury and that vicinity, conducted like men worthy of liberty: they put all at risque and flew to arms and victory.

Col. Baum was killed in the first action, and his orders from Gnl. Burgoyne, were found in his pocket. which shows how the Government of Great Britain, and their officers, were deceived with respect to America By those orders Col. Baum was to have proceeded to Bmmington and burn the continental stores, thence take the road to Newbury, on Connecticut River, and down the river to Brattleboro; thence to return and join the main army. To have fulfilled his orders he must, with his army, field-pieces, ammunition, and baggage, have travelled thirty miles a day, and have twice croped the Green Mountains, in different roads made for sleighs in winter, and horses in Summer, which would

ill answer for cannon waggons, and find horses to mount his cavalry and provisions for his army. and besides traversing this part of New-England, was truly taking the bull by the horns. The Assembly of Connecticut, at this time, was sitting at Hartford, and Genl. Sir Henry Clinton was moving part of his army up the North River to join Genl. Burgoyne. The Legislature of Connecticut was informed, that the continental Stores and meeting-house at Bennington were burnt by the British, and the Green Mountain Boys had been defeated with great loss; in this consternation the Assembly knew not how to direct their militia, and adjourned 'till the afternoon. When they had met they seemed not determined in any matter ~~tho'~~ until an express arrived from said Council of Safety, that announced the two Victories gained by Genl Starke, with an account of the killed and prisoners, who were safely lodged in the Meeting-House, which they were informed (by a supposed tory express) a few hours before was burnt. These dispatches requested assistance from Connecticut to oppose General Burgoyne: the Assembly were no longer at a loss how to direct its Militia. General Oliver Woolcott's division, assisted in the capture of General Burgoyne and army. About the time of the battle of Bennington, a victory was obtained on the ~~Mohawk~~ Mohawk River over another detatchment, under the command of Colonel St Ledger, from Canada, and which intended to have formed a junction with General Burgoyne on the Hudson's River. These victories presaged the capture of General Burgoyne and his army. Soon after the battle of Bennington, a plan was laid by the Council of safety and General Lincoln, to cut off General Burgoyne's communication with Canada, by means of Ticonderoga. To effect this Genl Lincoln ordered Col. Warner, with a detatchment of militia from Massachusetts, to surprize and take Mount Independence. Colonel Brown, with Colonel Herrick's regiment of Rangers: and some militia and volunteers, were to cross the lake at the Narrows, and go through the woods and take Mount Defiance and the landing of Lake George; those three places were to be attacked each in the gray of the same morning. Captain Ebenezer Allen, with his rangers, was to leave Cols Brown and Herrick at a certain place,

and take Mount Defiance, and then rejoin Brown and Herrick to take Ticonderoga, in conjunction with General Warner. The plan thus fixed they set off from Pawlet. General Warner moved so extremely cautious against Mount Independence that he saved his own men, and hurt none of the enemy. and his expedition failed Col Brown had many dificulties to encounter; he had the lake to cross in the night, and fourteen miles to go over rugged mountains, which he effected, and got within a few miles of the landing the day before the attack. Col. Herrick took a few of his rangers, and went in sight of Lake George landing, and from the mountains, made such discoveries as might be necessary; and, on his return to join the main body, Stationed centinels at certain distances, and rejoined Colonel Brown, after leaving this countersign, three hoots of an owl, on hearing which they were to answer; Captain Allen did the same on the way to Mount Defiance, so that when they began their march, they were not in danger of missing their way through the darkness of the night, or being discovered by lights or noise, for they munnicked the owl so completely, that few of the men who were not in the secret, had any mistrust. Col. Brown surprized and took the landing.

Captain Allen had the most difficult task, though Spirits equal to the undertaking. Mount Defiance garrison was on the top of a high and rough mountain that overlooked Ticonderoga, and Mount Independence had but one cut way to ascend to it, and that was well guarded. Allen and his men scaled the craggy rocks with much danger, and nearly reached the summit, when they found a cliff they could not climb in the ordinary way; therefore Allen ordered a man to stoop, and he steped on his back, and in that way ascended, but found that when he was up he could only discover about eight men, until they must come out in sight of and close to the parade, where were several cannon, and the garrison alarmed in consequence of the fireing at the landing at Lake George. He commenced the desperate assault with a hideous yell, and, to use his own expression, his men came after him like a

stream of hornets to the charge. which terrified most of the garrison. yet one man was bold enough to attempt to fire a field piece at the assailants; Allen having discharged his musket. cried out to his men, Kill the gunner, God d—n him? at which order the gunner turned from the field piece, and ran off with the match in his hand. Allen and his men were soon in possession of the fort and garrison. such men as were not killed or wounded, ran down the cut way towards Ticonderoga. and were taken by Major Short and a party under him. stationed at the bridge for that purpose. Capt. Allen had never discharged a cannon. but he levelled and fired a shot at the barrack on Mount Independence, which killed one man; then by a few shot, drove a ship in the lake from her moorings and thus proclaimed himself Commendent of Mount Defiance. Four hundred and seventy-two Americans then prisoners at said landing were retaken, and five hundred British made prisoners. Colonel Brown after his success at Lake George landing. and Capt Allen at Mount Defiance, attempted to take Dimond Island in Lake George, but without succes; he, however, destroyed the boats at the landing, took a store of goods anden the walls of Ticenderoga. put his booty into some boats he seized on Lake Champlain, and returned to Skeenesborough on his way back. Had these garrisons been demolished by the American troops before they evacuated them. these expeditions might have been more successful, and in proportion to lessning the consequence and spirit of Genl. Burgoyne's army. It would have raised the consequence and spirit of the American troops and people in the United States. which was at that time necessary to raise recruits

About this time Genl. Schuyler was superceded, and Genl. Gates took the command of the northern army. ~~about this~~ This change inspired the militia of New England with hope and confidence, and greatly cheered the drooping spirits of the army; and the militia of the neighbouring States, encouraged by the late succes of Genl. Starke, &c. turned out with alacrity to assist Genl. Gates.

The compliments paid to the troops of Vermont by Genl. Burgoyne in his letter to Lord George Germain, a little before his capitulation, is recorded in honour of the heroes of that day. Viz; "The district of the New-Hampshire Grants, a wilderness little known in the last war abounds with the most hardy, active and rebellious race of men on the continent, who hang like a gathering storm ready to burst on my left."

By the United force of America, on the Plains of Saratoga, was witnessed the surrender of Genl. Burgoyne, with a powerful British army which was no doubt of the first consequence to the then pending cause of the United States, from its more than three fould effects. First, In uniting and strengthning the people, and armies thereof; Secondly, In discouraging the British Hessians and Loyalists troops in America strengthning the minority, and opposers of the war in England and Ireland, which weakened the hands of the ministerial ticklers for such war in Great Britain, and lessened the influence of the Tories in the United States; Thirdly, It enabled the United States to make a treaty with the French Nation, in 1778, which brought the French fleets and Armies to act in concert with the ships and armies of the United States, with supplies of Military Stores, and not only opened the ports of France, to the cruizers of the United States, but it brought France and other Powers, into war against Great Britain, and added greatly to the consequence and credit of the United States in Europe, and enabled Mr. Adams to establish Loans, and to purchase Military Stores in Holland.

The subsequent truce between the British in Canada, and State of Vermont, kept ten thousand British troops, (about ~~one~~ one third of their troops in America,) inactive in 1781. The consequences were, that instead of General Washington sending troops to oppose them, which necessity would have compelled him to have done, had not said Truce intervened, after concerting measures with the French Admiral and Generals, he called Genl. James Clinton, and Brigade from Albany and other troops from near New-York, who assisted in the capture of

Lord Cornwallis and army at Jark-Town, State of Virginia
these General heads will no doubt be admitted, which may be stiled a
stepping stone to the Independence of the United States, in accomplishing
which, the Green Mountain Boys bore a conspicuous part: in laying
the first corner stone, by convening the Conventions, Committees of
Safety, &c. in opposition to the Colony of New-York, more than eight
years before the convening of the first Congress of the United States in
Philadelphia: on the 5th of September 1774, by their exertions in the field
and political negociations, stated in this history.

After this digression, it is proper to return to the Northern Army.
Soon after the convention at Saratoga the garrisons of Ticonderoga,
Mount Independence, and some other places on Lake Champlain,
were demolished by the British troops, who retired into Canada,
for winter quarters; but they were followed by Colonel Warner's
Rangers overtaken at Gilliland's Creek, where they took a number
of prisoners, horses, baggage, and boats.

Extracts From

Chapter VIII

When Ira Allen, Esq. was attending congress at Philadelphia, on
September, 1780, he gained private information,

Extracts From
Chapter VIII

"When Ira Allen, Esq. was attending congress at Philadelphia in Septem-ber, 1780, he gained private information, which gave more than reason to suspect, that the disputes between the Connecticut and Pennsylvania claimants, might have contributed towards the fate of the people of Wyo-ming, who were destroyed by Col. Butler, and a part of Indians in 1778; and that similar evils were in contemplation for the people of Vermont. Mr. Allen retired to a place for consideration, alone, under the shade of an oak tree, near the bank of the Schuylkill: Soon after a plan was laid between Ira Allen and Luke Knowlton, Esqs. at Philadelphia, to unite all parties in Vermont in a way that would be honourable to those who had been in favour of New-York, and said sixteen towns that would justify the Legislature of Vermont, in extending her jurisdictional claim to the east of Connecticut River: this was highly satisfactory to Mr. Knowlton. An other deeper and more secret object was in view, to take the advantage of political disputes, and thereby enable the State in a friendly way, to protect her frontiers from British invasion; to effect these objects, measures were taken to induce some of the western members of the Council and Assembly of New Hampshire, who had exerted themselves to extend the jurisdictional claim of New-Hampshire over the territory of Vermont, to write circular letters to convene a Convention which met at Walpole in December, 1780; after some deliberation they issued new writs for a full convention of Representatives from all the towns granted by New-Hampshire, on both sides of Connecticut river, and adjourned that convention to the 16th of January, 1781, to meet in Charlestown. Upon information of which, the Governor and council appointed Colonel Ira Allen to repair to Charlestown to attend that convention, and to take such measures as his prudence should dictate, and which might be conducive to the interest of the State. Mr Allen took credentials from Sunder-land, as a member, to the convention, from that town, agreeable to invitation, before he arrived, the convention had appointed a Committee to State the business of their meeting. Forty-three towns were represented in the

convention; twelve of those representatives were members of the Council and assembly of New-Hampshire. Mr. Allen did not take his seat as a member of the convention, nor produce his credentials; at length the committee reported to unite all the New Hampshire grants to New Hampshire. which was adapted by a great magarity, and ment in fact to annihilate the State of Vermont. Mr Allen informed Luke Knowlton, Elisha Pain, and Brgelial Woodward, Esquires, that the govenor and council and some other leading characters, on the west side of the Green Mountains, were for extending their claim of jurisdiction to the Mason line; and that if the convention would take proper measures, the legislature of Vermont would extend their claim at their adjourned term in February, 1781, and that he was authorised to give such assurance.

A motion was made and carried, to consider of the report and re-commit it to the committee, to be corrected and fitted for the press, as it would be a matter of public notariety, and lay it before the convention next morning. The friends of New Hampshire were much pleased with their success, and well enjoyed the night; but the scene changed next morning, for the committee reversed their report, and reported to unite all the territory of New Hampshire, west of Mason's ~~line~~ west line, Extending to Connecticut river, with the State of Vermont; and which report was accepted by a great majority of the convention, it being principally opposed by twelve members of the Council and Assembly of New-Hampshire, who thereupon, withdrew to remonstrate against the proceeding.

This bare faced conduct of the members of the legislature of New-Hampshire, discovered their intentions at once, and furnished Vermont with fair pretentions to extend jurisdiction, on grounds of similar policy and self preservation."

"The first information that the people of Vermont heard, that the British Generals in America thought to avail themselves of an advantage in the disputes that subsisted between the claiming States and congress, on the one part, and Vermont on the other, was contained in a letter from Col Beverly Robinson, dated New York, March 30th 1780. directed to Col Ethan Allen, which was delivered to him in July in the street in Arlington. Mr Allen —

perused the letter, then told the bearer that he should consider of it, and that he might return, permitting the bearer to return and taking the matter into consideration, was in a degree encouraging the proposition.

Col. Robinson begins his letter thus: "I am now undertaking a task which I hope you will receive with the same good intention that inclines me to make it. I have often been informed that you and most of the inhabitants of Vermont, are opposed to the wild and chimerical scheme of the Americans, in attempting to seperate this continent from Great Britain, and to establish an independent State of their own; and that you would willingly assist in uniting America again to Great Britain, and restoring that happy constitution we have so wantonly and unadvisedly destroyed. If I have been rightly informed, and these should be your sentiments and inclination, I beg you will communicate to me, without reserve, whatever proposals you would wish to make to the commander in Chief; and I hereby promise I will faithfully lay them before him, according to your directions, and flatter myself I can do it to as good effect as any other person whatever. I can make no proposals to you, until I know your sentiments, but think upon your taking an active part, and embodying the inhabitants of Vermont in favour of the crown of England, to act as the commander in chief shall direct, that you may obtain a seperate Government, under the King and constitution of England, and the men formed into regiments under such officers as you shall recommend, be on the same footing as well as the provincial Corps are. If you should think proper to send a friend of your own here with proposals to the General, he will be protected, and well treated here and allowed to return whenever he pleases."

General Ethan Allen immediately communicated the contents of said letter to the following confidential persons, Governor Thomas Chittenden, the Honourable Ira Allen, Timothy Brownson, Jonas Fay, and John Fasset, Esquires. Col. Mathew Lyon, and Major Joseph Fay, who were of the opinion that it was best not to return an answer; and it was agreed, that in consequence of application to the Governor, of the ~~some~~ friends of some persons

that had been taken at Royalton. who were prisoners in Canada. that the Governor should address a letter to the Commander in Chief. General Haldiman, on the subject of a cartel for the exchange of prisoners. and send a flag with it to the first British ship Stationed on the Lake. which was accomplished; and Friendly Interviews were frequently held. between some of said confidential persons. and other known to be in the British interest. who lived in the States of Vermont New-York and Pensylvania: and there are more than suspicions that one member of Congress was in the British interest,* through whome the British Generals were informed of the preceding remonstrance of Messrs Allen and Bradley, and other spirited documents transmitted to Congress by Governor Chittenden. Genl Ethan Allen and the agents of Vermont, which no doubt contributed to assist the agents of Vermont to settle a cartel for the exchange of prisoners. and to continue a Truce with the British in Canada and through Congress to the Cabinet of Great Britain. and produced the instructions of Lord George Germain of February 7th 1781. to Sir Henry Clinton. which produced the resolves of Congress of the 7th and 20th of August 1781. This Shews the diplomatic consequence of the citizens of Vermont. who. through Congress and British Generals influenced the Cabinet of Great Britain to give such instructions to their Generals. which being taken, produced the first resolves of Congress. favourable to Vermont. After this digression It is proper to state. that in October the British appeared in great force on the Lake; such was the alarm that the Legislature, who were then in session at Bennington, adjourned, and many of its members took arms. and repaired to the frontiers.

General Ethan Allen received a flag from Major Carleton, with an answer to Governor Chittenden's letter also proposing a truce with Vermont. for the settlement of a cartel for the exchange of prisoners. Genl Allen agreed to the truce. on condition that the frontiers

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*It is well known. that General Washington did not inform Congress of the measures he took for the capture of Lord Cornwallis and army.

of New-York should be included to Hudson's River. This additional territory produced some altication; for, on the part of Major Carleton, it disappointed his expidition; on the part of General Allen. It would have been exposing Vermont to many difficulties, had her General consented to a truce, and left the frontiers of a neighbouring State exposed. However, in consideration of future prospects, Gnl. Allen's propersition was admitted, and a truce was settled, including the frontiers of the State of New-York to Hudsons River. This stipulation was not publicly known; the militia of Vermont, who had virtually lain on their arms for several nights, while the negociations was carrying on, were immediately disbanded, and permitted to return home. A few days then were very meterial to the farmer in putting his winter wheat into the ground. The militia in said district to Hudson's river were also on their frontiers, and were much surprized to find that the militia of Vermont were returning home, and more that the British troops were next day retiring to Canada to winter quarters. It was further agreed that commissioners should meet on the subject of said cartel, truce and other agreements. Justus Sherwood, and George Smith, Esq'rs. were appointed on the part of the British. Colonel Ira Allen and Major Joseph Fay on the part of Vermont, who met in Castleton, and all agreed to go into Canada together.

When they arrived at East-Bay, an early and severe frost had obstructed their way in consequence of ice. While their men were breaking through the ice, much political conversation took place and exhibits of papers took place. The British commissioners had deposited many papers at East Bay, which were injured by the mice. Amongst the objects conversed of, was the settlement of a cartel, for the exchange of prisoners, the continuation of the truce, and to concert measures to form Vermont into a Colony under the crown with extensive privileges. After contending several days with the elements, it was agreed that the British commissioners should take the stores of both parties and make their way into Canada, and that Allen and Fay should return to Vermont and to see that commissioners should repair to Canada as soon as

circumstances would admit. To keep alive and continue negociations early in the winter the Honourable Jonas Fay Esq. was commissioned to accomplish the same object, and went as far as Split Rock on Lake Champlain where he found the ice insufficient, and with difficulty got off and made his return. This mission ~~was announced~~ of Mr. Jay's was announced to New-York by the time he set out, and no doubt ~~it~~ was of consequence, for we find that said instructions of Lord George Germain, to Sir Henry Clinton stating the return of the people of Vermont, to their allegance was dated February, 1781."

At the time of projecting these unions, and laying the basis for the first in Philadelphia, as aforesaid, which also united the people contiguous to Connecticut River, the State of Vermont was in a forlorn situation torn by intestine divisions and the intrigues of her enemies in Congress. All the remaining cannon, nay, every Spade and pick-axe taken by her valiant sons at Ticonderoga and Crown point, were removed out of the State to Fort George, together with Colonel Warner's regiment raised in and for the protection of Vermont, but put into continental service, were thus stationed to defend the frontiers of New-York, not half so much exposed as Vermont; and, to add to the distress, New-York re-called, at the same time, all her state troops from Skeenesborough; in either case, the enemy must come up Lake Champlain, and it would be impossible, then, to reach Fort George without light boats, which they must bring with them: and then they would be obliged to carry them over a neck of land two miles and a half, which seperated the two lakes, (Champlain and George) where neither cattle nor horses could be found to assist them; and ~~even~~ if they even should conquer difficulties and ~~lose~~ their boats by any accident a defeat would be fatal; for it would be almost impossible to secure a retreat, as the mountains on both sides Lake George were extremely difficult to pass; when the enemy might come up Lake Champlain within twelve miles of castleton, or, in one days march through a pleasant country, from opposite Ticonderoga to Pittsford or Castleton, at each of which places the troops of Vermont were stationed, and to the south of them the inhabitants of Vermont remained on their farms. In these times British Scouts frequently landed at Bulwagg Bay,

South-west of Crown Point, and went through the woods, and committed depredations on the inhabitants of the Mohawk River, and other places on the frontiers of the State of New York, west of Hudson's River. The reader is referred to the map of Vermont and said Lakes, annexed to this book, for a more clear Idea of these facts.

Thus Vermont was left to take care of itself, when a frontier to those claiming States, viz. New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New-York, and they using every method to divide its citizens, and to cut off her supplies of men and money for self defence. Congress had also interfered with the internal politics of Vermont, in favour of the claiming States, to cut off her ways and means of raising men and money as will appear from the following resolution of congress, viz. "Resolved unanimously, that in the opinion of congress, no unappropriated lands or estates, which are or may be adjudged forfeited, or confiscated, lying in said district, ought, until the final decision of congress in the premises, to be granted or sold."*

The Inhabitants of Vermont had rendered themselves obnoxious to the British, by the capture of Forts Ticonderoga, Crown Point, and St. John's, the battle of Bennington, cutting off the left wing of Genl. Burgoynes army, &c. and in Canada there were more troops than the whole militia and troops in Vermont amounted to all together.

Thus left, as she had reason to suppose, by the intrigues of those who claim-ed and coveted her fertile soil, to be a prey to the common enemy similar to the fate of her brethren, decendants from Connecticut, settled at Wyoming and Susquehannah, who were mostly killed by Col. Butler and a party of Indians; their towns villages, &c. burnt, and their country depopulated. (supposed to be through the intrigues of the Pennsylvania land-jobbers) which has since become a prey to the Pennsylvania claiments, a junto similar to the New-York Monopolist, who were then taking every measure that the malignancy and avericce of human nature could suggest, for the destruction of the people of Vermont. But her sons were not to be dismayed by dangers, or depressed in adversity; that in such a crisis their breasts glowed with the real fire of patriotism. The genius of Vermont was fruitful in resources; even in the gulph of difficulties,

* Journal of Congress, 24 September 24th. 1779

and on the verge of ruin. She waxed strong, extended her wings, and made herself known amongst the nations of the earth.

In April, 1781, Colonel Ira Allen was appointed by the Governor and Council to settle a cartel with the British in Canada for an exchange of prisoners, and also to procure an armistice between Vermont and the British, which the Cabinet Council thought impracticable, at least for any length of time, as the British had 10,000 troops in Canada, who would in that case be idle, not being able to annoy the other States without first annoying Vermont, and what an agent could possibly propose as a satisfactory equivalent for the activity of such an army, being about one third of the British troops in America, was out of the power of the Cabinet Council to name, yet all unanimously agreed that an armistice was indispensibly necessary for the existence of Vermont, as the whole militia, including males from sixteen to forty-five years of age, many of whome were not armed, did not exceed 7,000 men able to bear arms, (her unions excepted) and who would not contend with 10,000 British troops, be maintained and paid, for any length of time if called out to action; therefor an armistice must be obtained, or the frontier must be evacuated, until assistance could come from those very States whose influence had rendered Vermont defenceless, which, perhaps, had been contemplated, that they might more easily divide the Spoil under a ratification of Congress, and have their troops ready to guarantee such division.

The business was necessarily of a private nature, could be written with safety to Vermont; one person was better than more, as cross questions might arise, and no one could divine what questions and propositions might come from the British, respecting the past and future conduct and intentions of the principal characters of Vermont. Besides, there was much danger in the negociation to the Governor, Council, and especially their agent, from the Spies of the claiming States and Congress, who would labour hard for proof of a criminal correspondence, to expose life and property; but it was considered, that unless this measure was pursued, there was danger of being

annihilated as a State and being subjected by a power greatly promoted by the exertions of the people of Vermont. Under these circumstances, perseverance in an attempt to obtain an armistice was resolved on, at every possible hazard.

Col Allen prefered the first day of May, (it being the anniversary of his birth) for his departure on this important business, which also gave time for the convention of the west union to meet and ratify articles of confederation with Vermont. During this delay Governor Chittenden, Genl. Ethan Allen, Col. Timothy Brownson and others, at different interviews, were of opinion, that sufficient inducements could not be shewn to the British to carry into effect a truce for any length of time: that the enterprize was to great and hazardous for an individual to undertake, and they in friendly interviews advised Mr. Allen to give up the object. Indeed Genl. Ethan Allen was so anxious for the safety of his brother, as he himself had suffered ~~so~~ much in British irons, (when a prisoner) that he stoped him three times to converse with him, after he mounted his horse. But Col Allen continued firm in his determination to prosecute, as the only means of saving the existence of the State of Vermont, and that he should find means to carry into effect the business intrusted to him, and assured his friends, that he was not afraid of present danger from the British, the United States, or violent parties that might arise in Vermont; but should he be unsuccessful, of which he had no doubt; and the United States and Vermont gained their independence, he had reasons to fear that his exertions with ~~his brothers~~ the Green Mountain Boys, and in the revolutionary war with his negociations, ~~which~~ would so effect the British Government in the loss of so extensive and valuable a territory, and by introducing a new system of government, that the British would never forget nor forgive him, that he should have a powerful and intriguing nation against him, during his life; yet he would not give up his object, but risque all consequences on a firm determination, that as the commissioner of a sovereign free and independent State, he would conduct the business on such principles that

no just cause of complaint should ever arise against him."